

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

RE: APPOINTMENT OF CIRCUIT JUDGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 29.02 OF THE WEST VIRGINIA TRIAL COURT RULES RELATING TO THE BUSINESS COURT DIVISION

On this day, September 11, 2012, the Court approved an addition to the West Virginia Trial Court Rules, which will be effective October 10, 2012. The new addition, Rule 29, will be set forth in Chapter 2 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules and will be titled "Business Court Division."

In accordance with Rule 29.02 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules, the Business Court Division ("Division") will consist of up to seven (7) active or senior status circuit court judges as appointed by the Chief Justice, with the approval of the Supreme Court of Appeals, for a term of seven (7) years each. Rule 29.02 provides that this year, 2012, at least three judges shall be appointed with subsequent appointments to be made in a manner so as to insure that the terms are staggered. Rule 29.02 further provides that beginning this year, and for every three years thereafter, the Chief Justice shall designate a judge of the Division to serve as its Chair to preside over the activities of the Division and to report to the Supreme Court of Appeals.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, that the **Honorable Christopher C. Wilkes**, Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit, the **Honorable James J. Rowe**, Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, and the **Honorable Donald H. Cookman**, Judge of the Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit, be, and they hereby are, appointed to serve under the provisions of Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules, with appointments running from October 10, 2012, through October 9, 2019, and that the **Honorable James H. Young Jr.**, Judge of the Twenty-Fourth Judicial Circuit, be, and he hereby is, appointed to serve under the provisions of Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules beginning on January 1, 2013, with said term to conclude on December 31, 2019.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Judge Wilkes shall serve as the Chair of the Division for the three-year term contemplated by Rule 29.02 beginning on October 10, 2012, and continuing through October 9, 2015.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Clerk of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals record this Order in the office of said Clerk.

ENTERED: SEPTEMBER 11, 2012


MENIS E. KETCHUM
Chief Justice